

**Relevant topics of this workshop:**

- “XML First”—XML/XHTML/HTML from authors.
- Formatting to print using CSS
- Internationalization (especially parallel texts and study materials with glosses)
- Multiple output formats: are CSS media queries enough? What about alternate content, image replacement, subsetting?
- Sustainable business models for publishing, including digital rights management;
- EPUB and needs of digital books

Soleb is a publishing company specialised in history, with two main collections: Egyptology and Contemporary History.

Publishing scientific texts dealing with Egyptology forces us to mix many languages like Egyptian hieroglyphics, Arabic, ancient Greek, Coptic, Tifinagh... Whereas most are simply a matter of embedding the proper fonts, hieroglyphics are not typeset linearly and either have to be included as embedded images, or would require an extension similar to MathML. Some of our books contain texts simultaneously as photographs of the original medium, in typeset hieroglyphics, in transliteration, in translation, and with notes and glosses (parallel texts in print, overlays in ebooks?). As a publisher of scholarly books, we also have to take care of the need for referencing text in our books — we are currently using page lists referencing a paper or PDF edition, developing tools to extract them automatically. We pay also a lot of attention to the typesetting quality of our books, and their design and readability.

Since the February workshop, we have continued our move towards converting our existing catalog to both PDF and ePub, and now have ePub as our primary publishing medium. We now have several ebooks available for sale through various channels, all without DRM and trying to offer the reader all the available formats for a single price and a single transaction.

We have been developing solutions mixing HTML5, CSS and JavaScript to try to reach with reflowable ePub 3 the reading comfort level we expect in our publications, circumventing some of the current limitations of the platform. We are in the process of re-designing some of our past publications to have them fit to the electronic format, rethinking the relation between text and images, offering non-linear reading/browsing, and having the layout adapt to the reader format (no, media queries are not enough!). A first example is the “Château de Sabine” ePub, currently available on immateriel.fr or the Apple bookstore, where the ePub retains the layout principles of the paper edition. We are working on a more radical redesign of “du Sahara au Nil”, a one-million-sign, 900-photograph, 3.5-kg in print, book.

We are also converting an interactive DVD-ROM we published in our early days to ePub format (*la salle hypostyle du temple de Karnak*). It contains tens of 300 megapixel images fully zoomable and pannable with gestures on the iPad — the prototype of the image display is fully operational.

Next in our pipeline is an ePub publication of the White Chapel of Senusret I in Karnak, for which we envision to have a 3D model of the chapel as the main navigation item. Similar interactive applications have been designed along this route, but the foreseeable widespread support of WebGL in high-end tablets should make this doable within the ePub framework.

In our most recent projects, we are using XML as the primary format, in order to automate as much as possible the production process. We use CSS, media queries, javascript to have our e-books make the best use of the reader physical format, but have higher expectations for the books we end up printing, and so do not (yet) use CSS formatting to print — we would be glad to discuss what we would need for this solution to be acceptable.

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